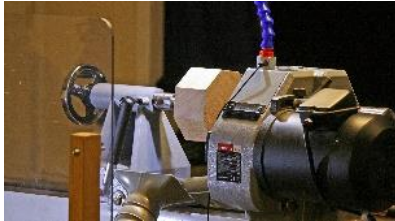


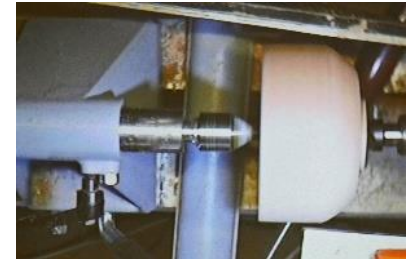
## November 2014 Meeting—Nikos Siragas

We were very pleased to welcome Nikos and his wife to the Club. Nikos comes from Crete and his wife is English and they were here combining visiting relatives and demonstrating.

Nikos was self-taught initially and had developed a style that included carving and shaping post-turning. He works a lot in Olive using wood from his own trees that he has cut and prepared himself. Together with his wife he has written a book called “From Tree to Gallery” which can be purchased through his website.



He met Stuart Mortimer early on during one of his visits to the UK and they became friends and Stuart encouraged Nikos to continue with and to develop his style of turning. Nikos credits Stuart with his success.



The first item was to be a bowl in Elm but with a cut and carved rim. The blank was mounted between centres and roughed to the round at a moderate speed. Nikos emphasised safety and continued to do so throughout his demonstration. Once round he started to shape the bottom of the bowl (at the headstock end). With a round skew he cut a tenon to fit in the chuck jaws. He also rough shaped the lip of the bowl.

He then mounted the rough bowl in the chuck, trued up the face and then refined the shape with a bowl gouge to get a fine ogee shape just under the rim. At this point he marked, in pencil, the centre line across the face and

rim and part way down the side of the bowl (this was for marking the cut out later). The bowl was then hollowed out with a bowl gouge and a scraper was used to undercut the rim and for the finishing cuts on the inside. The wall thickness was about 5 mm. The inside was sanded.



He used a template to draw the cut out shapes either side of the bowl, then with a Proxxon fitted with an Arbortech cutter he cut out the shapes and then using the cutter like a rasp and with small, gentle cuts he pared away the wood to get the shape. The final shaping was done with a Surform rasp. Sanding of curve was done using a homemade half round file from wood with Velcro stuck on and then the various grades of abrasive could be easily used. Finally the tenon was removed from the base.

The next project was a simple candlestick with a tea-light.



The piece was mounted between centres and a roughing gouge was used to produce a cylinder. A tenon was formed to fit the chuck and the piece was mounted in the chuck. Nikos then marked out the features with a pencil.

A spindle gouge was used to cut the recess in the end for the tea-light. The recess was sanded then sanding sealer was applied and when this was dry carnauba wax was applied.



The shape of the candle stick was then formed using a spindle gouge and a prominent bead formed below the holder. The piece was parted off after a coat of sanding sealer and carnauba wax and the base cleaned up.



Some pieces Nikos had on display.



A very good and informative demonstration with a strong emphasis on turning safely. Thank you Nikos.